



February 7, 1995

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FCC MAIL ROOM

The Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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IN THE MATTER OF CLOSED CAPTIONING AND VIDEO
DESCRIPTION OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING (FCC 95-484)

I write in reference to the above as response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry on Closed Captioning of Video Programming (FCC-95-484). As a late-deafened adult who is unable to understand the dialogue of most programs despite use of hearing aids or direct audio jack equipment to the TV, I am dependent on closed captions for most programs shown on TV. I watch weather programs (no captions) and would enjoy watching CNN News Programs (no captions). I feel that critical information is not available to me on most TV programs in my area.

In Ocean County, where I live, is a large number of senior citizens. This county is second only to Dade County, Florida in its number of retirees estimated at over 125,000. One in four people over the age of 60 has some form of hearing loss. This calculates to about 30,000 people in Ocean County. I assure you that we all are in need of closed captions.

I am the State Coordinator for the organization Self Help for Hard of Hearing, Inc. (SHHH) and serve on two state level advisory councils in the Department of Human Services.

Sincerely yours,

Carol M. Granaldi, State Coordinator
SHHH New Jersey

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Your support of
SHHH adds

your
voice to
an ever-
growing
number
of people
who

encourage
communication
access for
people with
hearing loss.

HEARING
LOSS:
YOU
CAN
DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT
IT!

SHHH

Self Help for Hard of
Hearing People, Inc.

7910 Woodmont Avenue
Suite 4200
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 661-2248 Voice
(301) 661-2249 TTY



The education we receive from SHHH is so much. We can learn a lot from each other and we can help each other.

Diane Jandt
Local Chapter
Member
Washington



SHHH has helped me in many ways. I have learned a lot about hearing loss and how to deal with it. I have also met many other people who are going through the same thing.

Virginia Linner
National
Chapter Member
of Virginia
Member, Loudoun



SHHH has helped me in many ways. I have learned a lot about hearing loss and how to deal with it. I have also met many other people who are going through the same thing.

Olga Sassine
National Chapter
Member, Loudoun

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS PROVIDE:

National Office

Responds to inquiries about hearing loss and makes referrals. Represents people with hearing loss in government, professional, academic and research forums.

Chapter and Group Network

A nationwide support network of chapters and groups that meets regularly to learn about hearing loss and coping strategies through self help. Chapter and group members help make their communities and states more accessible for people with hearing loss.

Hearing Loss: The Journal of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People

Award-winning bimonthly magazine about hearing loss with an estimated readership of 200,000.

National Programs

Programs promoting awareness, education, employment, and communication access.

Discounted Publications/Resource Materials

Covering all aspects of hearing loss such as causes, coping strategies, technology, and more.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Consumer information and compliance guidelines are available.

Annual Convention

An annual gathering that offers educational workshops, opportunities to try new technology, and to meet other people with hearing loss, and more, in a communication accessible environment.

Hearing Health Care Benefit Plan

Members are offered a discount rate to belong to this plan that offers quality and cost control of hearing care services while it provides discounts on audiological assessment, hearing aids, and other substantial benefits.

State and Regional Conferences

SHHH state and regional conferences organized by local chapters and groups offer more opportunities to learn about hearing loss and to network with other people with hearing loss in your locale.



State Associations

State associations are starting to develop strong state SHHH networks to help with state outreach, advocacy, and legislative issues that affect people with hearing loss.

SHHH On-Line with GENie

SHHH's home on the information super-highway features a bulletin board, a software library, and a real-time conference area plus exclusive areas for SHHH members only. Take advantage of special pricing by using the offer code, SHHH123. To join, call GENie at 1-800-638-9636 Voice or 1-800-238-9172 TTY or call SHHH National for more details.

For the local chapter or group nearest you, contact SHHH National or below:

SHHH National
500 Montgomery Ave.
Teaneck, N.J. 07666

HEARING LOSS IS INVISIBLE

Do you hear but not understand?

Do you have difficulty understanding the radio, television, or telephone?

Do you find yourself asking others to repeat what they said?

Do you tend to avoid people and gatherings?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

More than 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can hinder daily communication. This invisible condition affects us and everyone around us — our family, friends, and co-workers.



DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ People with hearing loss wait an average of seven years before seeking help?
- ◆ 75 percent of people who could benefit from hearing aids are not using them?
- ◆ By age 65, one out of three people has a hearing loss?
- ◆ 30 of every 1,000 school-age children have a hearing loss?
- ◆ 60 percent of people with hearing loss are between the ages of 21 and 65 (working age)?

WHAT IS SHHH?

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, Inc., a non-profit, educational organization, is dedicated to the well-being of people of all ages and communication styles who do not hear well. SHHH is the largest international consumer organization of its kind.

SHHH has a national office with a knowledgeable staff waiting to hear from you. We have a dedicated international membership, a nationwide support network of chapters and groups, and a sister organization in Australia. Our volunteer board of trustees is comprised of SHHH members from all over the country.

EDUCATION

- ◆ Our primary purpose is to educate ourselves, our families, friends, co-workers, teachers, hearing health care providers, industry, government, and others about hearing loss.
- ◆ We provide information on many aspects of hearing loss, from technological and medical advances to coping and parenting strategies.
- ◆ We want to help you become an informed consumer on what options are available to you to help you make the best decisions on how to deal with hearing loss.

ADVOCACY

- ◆ SHHH is a leading voice in improving communication access for people with hearing loss. We advocate for communication access in the workplace, hotels, schools, court systems, medical, and entertainment facilities.
- ◆ We encourage and participate in research to improve hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and other technology needs of consumers with hearing loss. We push for research on understanding the causes of hearing loss and for development of new treatments.
- ◆ We testify before federal, state, and local legislative bodies on issues concerning people with hearing loss. We help implement federal and state laws which benefit people with hearing loss.

SELF HELP

- ◆ SHHH believes people with hearing loss can help themselves and one another to participate fully and successfully in society. We work to develop options for ourselves and open doors for others.
- ◆ We provide support in setting up local support groups.

SHHH

and our members are catalysts that make mainstream society more accessible to people who are hard of hearing. We accomplish this through education, advocacy, and self help.

SHHH

Self Help for
Hard of Hearing
People, Inc.